

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CANBER 02646 300634Z

15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

OMB-01 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 ITF-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

/089 W

----- 103648

R 300505Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO /SECSTATE WASHDC 5585

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 2646

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AS, VS, VN, PINT, PFOR

SUBJ: HANOI-SAIGON CABLES - STATEMENT OF ACTING FOREIGN
MINISTER MORRISON

REF: CANBERRA 2614

CANBERRA 2645

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN APRIL 25 STATEMENT
ISSUED BY ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MORRISON ON
THE HANOI, SAIGON CABLES:

2. QTE. THE TELEGRAMS SENT TO AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS IN SAIGON
AND HANOI ON APRIL 2, WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN MADE PUBLIC IN THE
PRESS, ARE POSITIVE PROOF OF THE ACTIVE ROLE WHICH THE AUS-
TRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS SOUGHT TO PLAY IN BRINGING ABOUT THE
TERMINATION OF DECADES OF WAR IN VIETNAM.

3. QTE. THE TELEGRAMS WERE PART OF A SERIES OF STRENUOUS
EFFORTS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN MAKING TO PERSUADE
BOTH SIDES TO BRING ABOUT AN END TO THE FIGHTING. AS WOULD
BE OBVIOUS FROM ANY OBJECTIVE READING OF THE TELEGRAMS, THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CANBER 02646 300634Z

MESSAGES FAVOURED NEITHER SIDE IN THE VIETNAM WAR.

4. QTE. THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THREE PARTIES, THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, AND THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM, HAD ROLES TO PLAY IN BRINGING ABOUT A NEGOTIATED PEACE.

5. QTE POLITICAL COMMENTATORS IN AUSTRALIA HAVE APPARENTLY FORGOTTEN THAT THE PRG WAS A PARTICIPANT IN THE TALKS LEADING TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

6. QTE THE TELEGRAMS DEMONSTRATE, ABOVE ALL, THAT THE INDEPENDENT POLICIES PURSUED BY THIS GOVERNMENT ENABLED US TO UNDERTAKE THESE INITIATIVES. THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, BLINDED BY IDEOLOGICAL SUBSERVIENCE, MADE NO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE PARTIES IN VIETNAM TO SEEK A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

7. QTE THE L-CP GOVERNMENT SIMPLY BURIED ITS HEAD IN THE QUAGMIRE OF VIETNAM AND CLOSED ITS EYES TO ANY POSSIBILITY OF PEACE. THEY WERE FIRMLY ATTACHED TO THE PROSPECT THAT THE WAR IN VIETNAM WAS INNABLE.

8. QTE THE OPPOSITION'S SHALLOW CHARGES ARE AS FALSE AS ITS CURRENT POSTURE OF HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE WAR.

9. QTE. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY DEPLORED THE CONTINUATION OF THE WAR AND THE SUFFERING AND LOSS OF LIFE IT HAS BROUGHT ABOUT.

10. QTE AS PART OF OUR ACTIVE DIPLOMACY TO THE END, THE PRIME MINISTER WROTE TO PRESIDENT THIEU AND FOREIGN MINISTER TRINH (OF THE DRV) ON MARCH 13 URGING THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT TO RESUME WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A PEACEFUL AND ENDURING SETTLEMENT IN VIETNAM. WE AFFIRMED TO BOTH SAIGON AND HANOI AT THAT TIME THAT WE ADVOCATED THE RESUMPTION OF PEACE TALKS IN BOTH SAIGON AND PARIS.

11. QTE IN THE TELEGRAMS OF APRIL 2, THE PRIME MINISTER
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CANBER 02646 300634Z

STRESSED TO BOTH PARTIES THAT IF THEY OBSERVED THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL PROVISIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS THERE COULD BE AN END TO THE CONFLICT IN VIETNAM WITHOUT FURTHER FIGHTING.

12. QTE. THE INTEREST AND INTENTION OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT THROUGHOUT HAS BEEN TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF INDO-CHINA AND THE STABILITY OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA.

WE BELIEVE THAT OUR POSITIVE AND INDEPENDENT STANCE IN
ASIAN DIPLOMACY, AS DEMONSTRATED IN THE TELEGRAMS OF APRIL 2,
REPRESENTS THE TRUE INTERESTS OF AUSTRALIA BETTER THAN THE
MYOPIC APPROACH OF THOSE WHO CAN SEE ONLY ONE SIDE TO ANY
ARGUMENT. END QTE.
GREEN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CANBER02646
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750151-0333
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975041/aaaaaage.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CANBERRA 2614
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 NOV 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HANOI-SAIGON CABLES - STATEMENT OF ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MORRISON
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, AS, VS, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006